



Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations

Issue Brief



Federal Grant Expenditures by School Districts October 2008

I. Introduction

In its recent report, *Federal Grants to Florida's Local Governments*, the Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (LCIR) analyzed reported expenditures of federal grants by counties and municipalities. That report not only illustrated past performance through an analysis of federal grant expenditures, it also highlighted the existence of a valuable website, www.Grants.gov. This issue brief will supplement the report, analyzing expenditures of federal grants by school districts.

II. One-Stop Shop for Grants

Created in response to Congressional direction, the interactive website www.Grants.gov centralizes existing resources and has many user friendly features. Most importantly, interested parties can register with the website, complete a profile, and request alerts regarding grants that may be of interest to the registrant. This, in effect, makes www.Grants.gov a one-stop shop for finding many grant opportunities. School districts would be wise to take full advantage of this continually improving website.

III. Background

LCIR staff are currently in the process of reaching out to local governments to

increase awareness of this website, and to this end have compiled data regarding expenditures of federal grants by school districts, which illustrates the significant funds that are available for draw-down. Naturally, school districts exhibit grant expenditure patterns quite different than those of general purpose local governments, the most significant being that grant expenditures are generally sourced to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE). Despite these differences many of the recommendations contained in the initial report can prove valuable for school districts given that the recommendations apply broadly to grant seeking and are not specific to an agency or the nature of a grant.

Recommendations expected to prove most relevant to school districts are presented in this issue brief, but first independent observations are made regarding the federal grant expenditure patterns of school districts. These observations bear some degree of similarity to analysis contained in the prior report, primarily in the observation that one federal agency tends to be the dominant source of grant expenditures.

IV. Data Used in this Report

Before examining expenditures of federal grants it is necessary to provide information regarding data sources utilized. This issue brief uses two

primary data sources to create a unique data set. Expenditure data are drawn from Federal Single Audits, posted at <http://harvester.census.gov/sac/>. While there is a threshold of \$500,000 in expenditures of federal funds for filing a single audit, this was met by all school districts and as such is not a concern. Data referencing the type of grant and eligibility criteria is drawn from the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA), which is available online at <http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html>. The use of these two data sources provides a unique resource, and allows for comparison by district staff of similarly situated school districts.

A. Aggregate Grant Expenditures

Unlike general purpose local governments, whose primary source of grant expenditures was the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), school district grant expenditures are generally sourced to DOE, although the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is also the source for about 20% of school district grant expenditures. As shown in **Table A**, other agencies such as DHS and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are also the source of substantial grant expenditures but pale in comparison with the \$500 million sourced to USDA and the \$1.7 billion sourced to DOE. In fact, the four agencies previously referenced are the source for over 99% of all federal grant expenditures reported by school districts, and as **Table B** illustrates, other agencies combined make up less than half of one percent of federal grant expenditures. These totals represent all federal grants and contain significant pass through funds; however, federal

grant expenditures for each school district are separated into categorical totals by applicant eligibility criteria and presented in tables provided at the end of this issue brief.

B. Grant Expenditures by School Districts

Federal grant expenditures by each school district are presented in **Table C**. This table includes expenditures from all federal grants and does not consider eligibility criteria which can preclude local governments (including school districts) from applying. Total and per student expenditures of federal grants are illustrated, and an interesting trend is observed; namely, that larger school districts generally exhibit greater *total* federal grant expenditures while smaller school districts generally exhibit greater *per student* federal grant expenditures. The sample is next filtered to include only grants that identify local governments as an eligible applicant in the CFDA. The results are illustrated in **Table D** and show the statewide total decreasing by more than half to slightly under \$1 billion. Next the sample is filtered further to include only *project* grants that list local governments as an eligible applicant in the CFDA. This analysis is utilized to remove the influence of formula grants, and illustrate school districts that are active and adept in their pursuit of federal funds. **Table E** shows that nearly all school districts reported federal grant expenditures in this category, indicating a high level of engagement in the grant-seeking process.

V. Recommendations & Conclusion

Recommendations most relevant to school districts are now presented,

drawn from the LCIR report *Federal Grants to Florida's Local Governments*, and adapted to this issue brief.

A. Recommendations

School districts should take the following steps to increase their receipt of federal grant funds:

- Register with www.Grants.gov and take full advantage of all this interactive website has to offer.
- As www.Grants.gov continues to evolve, school districts should provide the website with feedback on issues that could bear improvement, such as timeframes, and uniformity of application processes and forms.
- Collaborate with other school districts and regional entities to explore meeting eligibility requirements of certain grants.
- Once suitable grants have been identified, school district staff should develop a direct rapport with personnel from the granting agency through phone and e-mail contact whenever possible.
- Conduct cost-benefit analyses to assess the fiscal value of hiring one or more grant-writers.
- Identify federal and state policy changes needed to enhance Florida's access to federal funding streams.
- Support state efforts to form coalitions with similarly-situated states to pursue changes in outdated or inequitable federal funding formulas.
- Work with the state and Congress to implement changes to federal funding formulas

determined to be outdated or inequitable.

- Vigorously pursue increased availability of state matching funds or other locally available funds.
- Invest in training provided at the state and local levels for accessing federal (and state) grant funding.
- Increase communication and coordination on federal funding issues among state agencies, the Governor's office, the Florida Washington Office, the Legislature, and the Congressional Delegation.
- When competing with school districts from other states for non-formula grants, enlist assistance from Congressional Offices, who are typically able to provide letters of support.

B. Conclusion

Current economic conditions warrant school districts maximizing all potential funding sources. In response to Congressional direction, the federal government created www.Grants.gov, an interactive website that makes it easier to pursue federal grants. School districts are advised to take advantage of this resource to the fullest extent. Additionally, the LCIR, in conjunction with other governmental associations, continues to make concerted efforts to reach out to local governments (including school districts) through newsletters, web links, and other means, to ensure that information regarding federal grants is shared with as many entities as possible.

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Table A: Total Grant Expenditures by Source Agency in FY 2007

Federal Agency	Expenditures
Department of Agriculture	\$542,062,614
Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service	17,174
Department of Education	1,689,971,707
Department of Energy	37,068
Department of Health and Human Services	122,723,623
Department of Homeland Security	38,165,114
Department of Housing and Urban Development	16,299
Department of Justice	2,014,757
Department of Labor	5,098,659
National Science Foundation	181,929
Department of Transportation	342,659
Environmental Protection Agency	194,852
Corporation for National and Community Service	2,465,816
Statewide Total	\$2,403,292,271

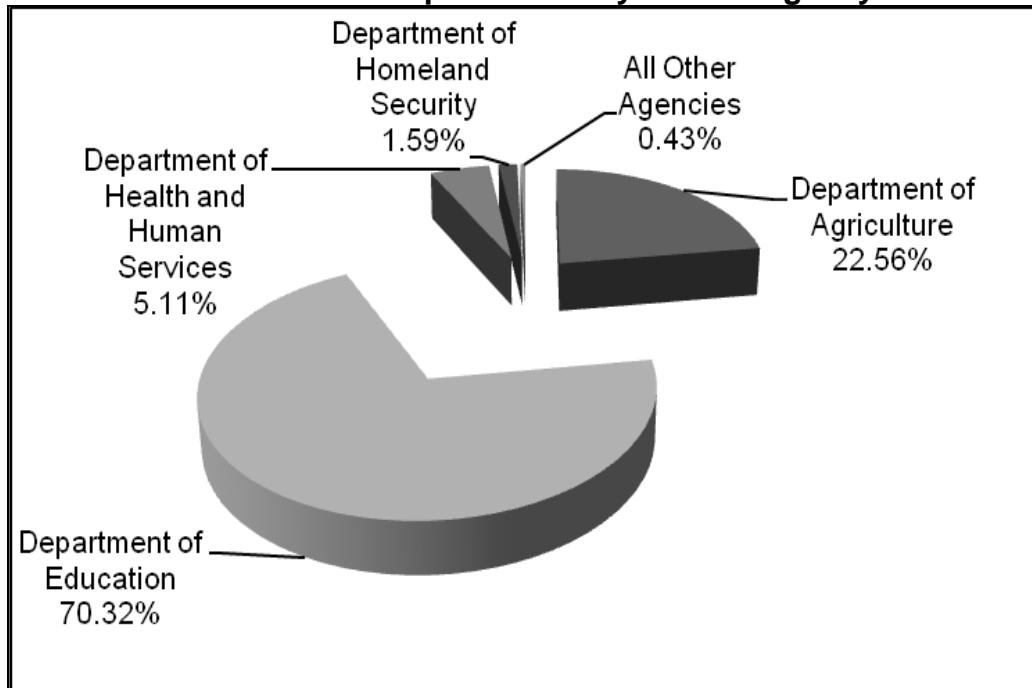
Table B: Share of Grant Expenditures by Source Agency in FY 2007

Table C: Grant Expenditures by School Districts

School District	Fiscal Year 2007 Expenditures					
	Enrollment	Enrollment Rank	Grants	Grants Rank	Grants Per Student	Grants Per Student Rank
Alachua	28,998	25	\$28,375,724	21	\$978.54	27
Baker	4,974	51	3,498,460	55	703.35	57
Bay	27,005	26	22,207,822	25	822.36	41
Bradford	3,683	52	3,716,794	54	1,009.18	26
Brevard	74,791	10	52,596,624	10	703.25	58
Broward	262,726	2	213,604,088	3	813.03	43
Calhoun	2,227	60	1,987,559	64	892.48	35
Charlotte	17,888	31	21,177,530	26	1,183.90	20
Citrus	16,077	33	12,490,827	35	776.94	46
Clay	35,711	22	16,481,594	29	461.53	66
Collier	43,164	15	41,743,153	14	967.08	30
Columbia	10,179	38	10,710,441	39	1,052.21	24
De Soto	4,984	50	7,115,324	43	1,427.63	11
Dixie	2,241	59	2,591,413	58	1,156.36	22
Duval	125,171	6	111,622,352	6	891.76	36
Escambia	42,708	16	47,535,677	13	1,113.04	23
Flagler	12,149	35	6,445,174	47	530.51	65
Franklin	1,317	64	2,006,607	63	1,523.62	9
Gadsden	6,650	45	13,858,770	33	2,084.03	2
Gilchrist	2,887	57	2,515,139	59	871.19	38
Glades	1,256	65	1,726,313	66	1,374.45	12
Gulf	2,193	61	1,713,406	67	781.31	45
Hamilton	2,036	62	3,317,330	56	1,629.34	8
Hardee	5,037	49	6,570,215	45	1,304.39	14
Hendry	7,463	40	11,046,389	38	1,480.15	10
Hernando	22,447	29	14,277,067	32	636.03	61
Highlands	12,453	34	16,430,935	30	1,319.44	13
Hillsborough	193,480	3	246,555,530	2	1,274.32	15
Holmes	3,384	55	4,016,907	53	1,187.03	19
Indian River	17,611	32	11,628,261	37	660.28	59
Jackson	7,382	42	9,237,169	40	1,251.31	16
Jefferson	1,220	66	2,392,634	60	1,961.18	3
Lafayette	1,074	67	2,051,755	62	1,910.39	4
Lake	39,566	20	29,600,489	19	748	51
Lee	78,980	9	57,789,131	9	731.69	54
Leon	32,383	23	27,935,284	22	862.65	39
Levy	6,257	46	6,059,184	48	968.38	29
Liberty	1,475	63	1,823,185	65	1,236.06	17
Madison	2,935	56	4,966,864	52	1,692.29	6

Manatee	42,242	18	34,816,132	18	824.21	40
Marion	42,570	17	38,123,924	16	895.56	34
Martin	18,239	30	13,690,602	34	750.62	50
Miami-Dade	353,783	1	412,827,240	1	1,166.89	21
Monroe	8,375	39	8,592,536	42	1,025.97	25
Nassau	10,938	37	6,461,669	46	590.75	63
Okaloosa	30,254	24	23,196,696	24	766.73	47
Okeechobee	7,289	43	8,797,730	41	1,206.99	18
Orange	175,155	4	142,865,391	4	815.65	42
Osceola	51,881	14	37,922,103	17	730.94	55
Palm Beach	171,429	5	138,796,410	5	809.64	44
Pasco	64,688	13	47,627,623	12	736.27	53
Pinellas	109,880	7	99,286,068	7	903.59	33
Polk	92,873	8	68,905,672	8	741.93	52
Putnam	12,101	36	20,364,863	27	1,682.91	7
Saint Johns	26,922	27	12,350,481	36	458.75	67
Saint Lucie	38,786	21	29,396,594	20	757.92	48
Santa Rosa	25,392	28	18,380,012	28	723.85	56
Sarasota	42,190	19	24,459,434	23	579.74	64
Seminole	66,349	11	40,846,356	15	615.63	62
Sumter	7,432	41	6,870,601	44	924.46	32
Suwannee	5,981	47	5,821,934	51	973.40	28
Taylor	3,420	54	5,879,211	50	1,719.07	5
Union	2,265	58	2,115,690	61	934.08	31
Volusia	65,867	12	49,726,223	11	754.95	49
Wakulla	5,050	48	3,284,913	57	650.48	60
Walton	6,704	44	5,972,144	49	890.83	37
Washington	3,565	53	14,494,899	31	4,065.89	1
Florida Total*	2,655,782	NA	\$2,403,292,271	NA	\$1,055	NA

Source: Florida LCIR

* Florida Total for grants per capita lists the average per capita value, not an aggregate total.

1) Enrollment data obtained from Florida Department of Education, Education Information and Accountability Services; <http://www.fldoe.org/eias/eiaspubs/>.

2) Expenditure data obtained from Federal Single Audits; <http://harvester.census.gov/sac/>.

3) Expenditure data for Leon County Schools was obtained via district financial statements; <http://sharepoint.leon.k12.fl.us/finance/LCS%20Financial%20Statements/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

4) Eligibility data obtained from the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance; <http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html>.

Table D: Eligible Grant Expenditures by School Districts

School District	Fiscal Year 2007 Expenditures					
	Enrollment	Enrollment Rank	Grants: Eligible	Grants Rank	Grants Per Student: Eligible	Grants Per Student Rank
Alachua	28,998	25	\$11,306,414	23	\$389.90	26
Baker	4,974	51	1,224,695	56	246.22	54
Bay	27,005	26	7,917,124	29	293.17	40
Bradford	3,683	52	1,515,383	54	411.45	22
Brevard	74,791	10	22,021,086	9	294.43	39
Broward	262,726	2	88,128,630	2	335.43	30
Calhoun	2,227	60	592,328	65	265.98	51
Charlotte	17,888	31	14,125,684	16	789.67	4
Citrus	16,077	33	4,601,172	37	286.20	42
Clay	35,711	22	7,547,501	30	211.35	63
Collier	43,164	15	17,512,461	13	405.72	24
Columbia	10,179	38	4,212,102	39	413.80	21
De Soto	4,984	50	2,561,251	45	513.89	13
Dixie	2,241	59	919,722	60	410.41	23
Duval	125,171	6	40,659,580	6	324.83	33
Escambia	42,708	16	18,396,285	10	430.75	19
Flagler	12,149	35	2,533,062	46	208.50	64
Franklin	1,317	64	917,027	61	696.30	8
Gadsden	6,650	45	5,141,967	34	773.23	5
Gilchrist	2,887	57	810,245	62	280.65	44
Glades	1,256	65	626,532	63	498.83	16
Gulf	2,193	61	603,865	64	275.36	45
Hamilton	2,036	62	1,129,585	58	554.81	11
Hardee	5,037	49	1,565,075	52	310.72	35
Hendry	7,463	40	3,348,401	41	448.67	18
Hernando	22,447	29	4,284,922	38	190.89	67
Highlands	12,453	34	6,249,195	32	501.82	15
Hillsborough	193,480	3	86,538,039	3	447.27	17
Holmes	3,384	55	1,715,675	50	507.00	14
Indian River	17,611	32	3,438,749	40	195.26	65
Jackson	7,382	42	4,746,813	36	643.03	9
Jefferson	1,220	66	920,042	59	754.13	6
Lafayette	1,074	67	1,138,468	57	1,060.03	2
Lake	39,566	20	10,618,055	24	268	50
Lee	78,980	9	24,269,481	8	307.29	36
Leon	32,383	23	12,589,708	17	388.78	27
Levy	6,257	46	2,079,242	48	332.31	31
Liberty	1,475	63	350,401	67	237.56	57
Madison	2,935	56	1,559,896	53	531.48	12

Manatee	42,242	18	11,350,153	22	268.69	49
Marion	42,570	17	11,555,630	21	271.45	48
Martin	18,239	30	6,471,268	31	354.80	29
Miami-Dade	353,783	1	105,389,629	1	297.89	38
Monroe	8,375	39	4,861,311	35	580.46	10
Nassau	10,938	37	2,609,446	44	238.57	56
Okaloosa	30,254	24	12,140,036	18	401.27	25
Okeechobee	7,289	43	3,133,069	42	429.84	20
Orange	175,155	4	45,375,376	5	259.06	52
Osceola	51,881	14	11,574,618	19	223.10	61
Palm Beach	171,429	5	55,883,970	4	325.99	32
Pasco	64,688	13	18,223,597	11	281.72	43
Pinellas	109,880	7	34,631,423	7	315.17	34
Polk	92,873	8	18,030,821	12	194.14	66
Putnam	12,101	36	8,947,251	27	739.38	7
Saint Johns	26,922	27	5,819,673	33	216.17	62
Saint Lucie	38,786	21	9,980,207	25	257.31	53
Santa Rosa	25,392	28	9,160,471	26	360.76	28
Sarasota	42,190	19	11,565,789	20	274.14	47
Seminole	66,349	11	15,362,723	15	231.54	59
Sumter	7,432	41	2,149,194	47	289.18	41
Suwannee	5,981	47	1,834,606	49	306.74	37
Taylor	3,420	54	2,770,116	43	809.98	3
Union	2,265	58	523,228	66	231.01	60
Volusia	65,867	12	15,630,142	14	237.30	58
Wakulla	5,050	48	1,384,496	55	274.16	46
Walton	6,704	44	1,648,449	51	245.89	55
Washington	3,565	53	8,514,145	28	2,388.26	1
Florida Total*	2,655,782	NA	\$859,597,915	NA	\$414	NA

Source: Florida LCIR

* Florida Total for grants per capita lists the average per capita value, not an aggregate total.

1) Enrollment data obtained from Florida Department of Education, Education Information and Accountability Services; <http://www.fldoe.org/eias/eiaspubs/>.

2) Expenditure data obtained from Federal Single Audits; <http://harvester.census.gov/sac/>.

3) Expenditure data for Leon County Schools was obtained via district financial statements; <http://sharepoint.leon.k12.fl.us/finance/LCS%20Financial%20Statements/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

4) Eligibility data obtained from the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance; <http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html>.

Table E: Eligible Project Grant Expenditures by School Districts

School District	Fiscal Year 2007 Expenditures					
	Enrollment	Enrollment Rank	Grants: Eligible Project	Grants Rank	Grants Per Student: Eligible Project	Grants Per Student Rank
Alachua	28,998	25	\$3,720,071	13	\$128.29	16
Baker	4,974	51	33,048	57	6.64	52
Bay	27,005	26	891,647	33	33.02	36
Bradford	3,683	52	110,562	50	30.02	40
Brevard	74,791	10	3,469,947	15	46.40	32
Broward	262,726	2	36,124,014	1	137.50	13
Calhoun	2,227	60	1,265	63	0.57	61
Charlotte	17,888	31	9,678,559	5	541.06	2
Citrus	16,077	33	44,853	55	2.79	57
Clay	35,711	22	193,790	46	5.43	55
Collier	43,164	15	7,963,961	7	184.50	9
Columbia	10,179	38	1,100,453	27	108.11	22
De Soto	4,984	50	469,030	37	94.11	23
Dixie	2,241	59	204,292	44	91.16	24
Duval	125,171	6	5,815,272	9	46.46	31
Escambia	42,708	16	5,676,347	10	132.91	14
Flagler	12,149	35	244,352	42	20.11	46
Franklin	1,317	64	153,722	48	116.72	19
Gadsden	6,650	45	2,293,567	19	344.90	5
Gilchrist	2,887	57		65	0.00	65
Glades	1,256	65	57,323	54	45.64	33
Gulf	2,193	61		66	0.00	66
Hamilton	2,036	62	67,009	53	32.91	37
Hardee	5,037	49	6,689	61	1.33	59
Hendry	7,463	40	585,792	35	78.49	27
Hernando	22,447	29	7,115	60	0.32	63
Highlands	12,453	34	1,846,966	22	148.31	10
Hillsborough	193,480	3	24,901,382	3	128.70	15
Holmes	3,384	55	200,215	45	59.17	30
Indian River	17,611	32	5,100	62	0.29	64
Jackson	7,382	42	2,279,558	20	308.80	6
Jefferson	1,220	66	148,913	49	122.06	17
Lafayette	1,074	67	562,608	36	523.84	3
Lake	39,566	20	908,401	32	23	44
Lee	78,980	9	9,125,142	6	115.54	20
Leon	32,383	23	603,363	34	18.63	47
Levy	6,257	46	88,187	51	14.09	49
Liberty	1,475	63	8,623	58	5.85	54
Madison	2,935	56	212,111	43	72.27	28

Manatee	42,242	18	443,338	38	10.50	50
Marion	42,570	17	1,231,241	25	28.92	41
Martin	18,239	30	2,076,316	21	113.84	21
Miami-Dade	353,783	1	27,954,369	2	79.02	26
Monroe	8,375	39	2,564,726	17	306.24	7
Nassau	10,938	37	78,780	52	7.20	51
Okaloosa	30,254	24	41,566	56	1.37	58
Okeechobee	7,289	43	1,063,156	29	145.86	11
Orange	175,155	4	5,577,166	11	31.84	38
Osceola	51,881	14	303,419	40	5.85	53
Palm Beach	171,429	5	20,319,559	4	118.53	18
Pasco	64,688	13	5,360,356	12	82.86	25
Pinellas	109,880	7	7,189,700	8	65.43	29
Polk	92,873	8	426,791	39	4.60	56
Putnam	12,101	36	2,977,985	16	246.09	8
Saint Johns	26,922	27	1,149,481	26	42.70	35
Saint Lucie	38,786	21	1,098,897	28	28.33	42
Santa Rosa	25,392	28	3,542,335	14	139.51	12
Sarasota	42,190	19	912,901	31	21.64	45
Seminole	66,349	11	981,165	30	14.79	48
Sumter	7,432	41		67	0.00	67
Suwannee	5,981	47	267,622	41	44.75	34
Taylor	3,420	54	1,259,292	24	368.21	4
Union	2,265	58	900	64	0.40	62
Volusia	65,867	12	1,631,703	23	24.77	43
Wakulla	5,050	48	157,485	47	31.19	39
Walton	6,704	44	8,347	59	1.25	60
Washington	3,565	53	2,401,814	18	673.72	1
Florida Total*	2,655,782	NA	\$210,823,659	NA	\$96	NA

Source: Florida LCIR

* Florida Total for grants per capita lists the average per capita value, not an aggregate total.

1) Enrollment data obtained from Florida Department of Education, Education Information and Accountability Services; <http://www.fldoe.org/eias/eiaspubs/>.

2) Expenditure data obtained from Federal Single Audits; <http://harvester.census.gov/sac/>.

3) Expenditure data for Leon County Schools was obtained via district financial statements; <http://sharepoint.leon.k12.fl.us/finance/LCS%20Financial%20Statements/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

4) Eligibility data obtained from the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance; <http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html>.